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Title: Need to take necessary steps to expedite the completion of gauge conversion work of railway lines between Dindigul and Palakkad via Pollachi and between Pollachi and Pothanur.

SHRI K. SUGUMAR (POLLACHI): The gauge conversion work of railway lines between Dindigul and Palakkad via Pollachi and between Pollachi and Pothanur are in progress. The conversion work started in the year 2007 and not yet completed after a lapse of seven years. More than 95 percent work has been completed in the gauge conversion between Dindigul and Pollachi and 80 percent of work between Pollachi and Pothanur. The reason for the non- completion of the remaining work is non-payment of nearly Rs. 40 crores to the contractor. If the balance amount is paid to the contractor, the work will be completed within a period of one month.

Due to the non-completion of remaining 5 percent of gauge conversion, people are facing untold sufferings. I request the Ministry of Railways to take immediate action to complete the remaining part of the gauge conversion work on the above routes at the earliest.